

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2003

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in April was 225,202 metric tons (t). The average daily production rate was 7,507 t, 2% lower than that of the previous month but 4% above the rate for April 2002.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased from 67.56 cents per pound in March to 64.50 cents per pound in April, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during April. The price range began the month at 49–51 cents per pound. On April 4, the buying price decreased to 48.5–50.5 cents per pound. On April 15, the price range decreased again to 48–50 cents per pound before returning to the 48.5–50.5 cents per pound range on April 23, where it remained through the end of the month. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the average monthly transaction price for aluminum UBCs decreased from 52.9 cents per pound in March to 50.5 cents per pound in April.

U.S. Trade Through March

Total U.S. imports for consumption of aluminum for the first quarter of 2003 increased 14% compared with the total for the same period in 2002. A decrease in scrap imports (8%) was more than offset by large increases in imports of metal (16%) and semifabricated materials (19%). Canada and Russia continued to be the major suppliers of imported aluminum. Total U.S. exports of aluminum for the first quarter of 2003 decreased slightly (1%) compared with those for the same period in 2002.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 64.5 cents per pound in April to 66.6 cents per pound in May. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased by a penny during the month of May. On May 2, the buying price range increased by a half penny to 49–51 cents per pound and increased by a half penny again on May 20 to 49.5–51.5 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2002 ^p	2,707	1,810	1,210 ^r	3,020 ^r	2,790	797	3,590	9,320 ^r	1,320
2002:									
April	216	148	101 ^r	249 ^r	221	65	286	751 ^r	1,310
May	228	152 ^r	102 ^r	254 ^r	221	76	297	779 ^r	1,280
June	225	148 ^r	98 ^r	246	263	71	334	805	1,320
July	238	143 ^r	101	244 ^r	228	74	302	784 ^r	1,310
August	237	155 ^r	105 ^r	260 ^r	279	77	356	853 ^r	1,350
September	227	157 ^r	102 ^r	260 ^r	235	70	305	791	1,370
October	235	164 ^r	111 ^r	276 ^r	196	67	263	774 ^r	1,360
November	232	148 ^r	100 ^r	248	264	64	328	808 ^r	1,370
December	241	140 ^r	91 ^r	231 ^r	186	61	247	719 ^r	1,320
January-April	844	603	401	1,000	921	237	1,160	3,010	1,310
2003:									
January	242	152 ^r	96 ^r	248 ^r	215	69	284	774 ^r	1,350
February	220	153 ^r	88 ^r	241 ^r	246	64	310	771 ^r	1,390
March	238	143 ^r	88 ^r	231 ^r	350	71	421	891	1,420
April	225	143	99	242	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-April	925	591	372	963	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-	Metal	Con-	Metal	Con-	Metal	Con-	Metal	Con-	Metal	Con-	Metal
	sump-	recovery	sump-	recovery	sump-	recovery	sump-	recovery	sump-	recovery	sump-	recovery
	tion		tion		tion		tion		tion		tion	
2002 ^p	1,840 ^r	1,380 ^r	871	754	823	764	134	122	6	6	3,680 ^r	3,020 ^r
2002:												
April	153 ^r	115 ^r	71	62	64	59	13	12	1	1	302 ^r	249 ^r
May	153 ^r	115 ^r	73	63	69	64	13	12	(2)	(2)	309 ^r	254 ^r
June	150	112	65	56	71	66	12	11	(2)	(2)	299	246
July	148 ^r	110 ^r	66	56	75	69	9	8	(2)	(2)	298 ^r	244 ^r
August	155 ^r	115 ^r	76	66	75	69	11	10	1	1	317 ^r	260 ^r
September	153	114	78	68	72	67	11	10	(2)	(2)	315	260 ^r
October	167 ^r	126 ^r	79	68	77	71	11	10	(2)	(2)	334 ^r	276 ^r
November	149	111	71	61	71	66	11	10	(2)	(2)	302	248
December	146 ^r	107 ^r	64	55	63	59	10	9	(2)	(2)	284 ^r	231 ^r
January-April	622	468	299	259	250	232	46	42	3	3	1,220	1,000
2003:												
January	147 ^r	109 ^r	70	60	72	67	12	11	1 ^r	1 ^r	301 ^r	248 ^r
February	147 ^r	109 ^r	66	57	68	64	11	10	(2)	(2)	293 ^r	241 ^r
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	10 ^r	9 ^r	(2)	(2)	282 ^r	231 ^r
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	(2)	(2)	294	242
January-April	571	424	270	233	284	265	43	39	2	2	1,170	963

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN APRIL 2003¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated	Estimated	Tabulated	Estimated
	reports	full coverage	reports	full coverage
Secondary smelters	114,000	137,000	84,800	102,000
Integrated aluminum companies	75,300	75,300	65,000	65,000
Independent mill fabricators	58,900	70,700	54,700	65,700
Foundries	8,740	10,500	7,840	9,410
Other consumers	364	437	364	437
Total	258,000	294,000	213,000	242,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2003¹

(Metric tons)

	April			January-April ²		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	20,000 ^r	77,500	77,500	20,000	302,000	311,000
Can stock clippings	3,170	17,900	17,800	3,310	77,600	76,100
Other clippings	5,400	8,060	8,050	5,400	38,700	39,000
Borings and turnings	4,900 ^r	17,600	17,900	4,540	71,200	71,400
Dross and skimmings	2,640 ^r	31,300	31,300	2,620	130,000	130,000
Total new scrap	36,100 ^r	152,000	153,000	35,900	619,000	628,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	12,800 ^r	30,700	31,400	12,100	129,000	130,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,750 ^r	1,240	1,520	1,460	6,490	6,900
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	33,100 ^r	61,900	60,300	34,700	216,000	209,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,340 ^r	11,900	10,900	3,280	44,500	42,300
Total old scrap	50,000 ^r	106,000	104,000	51,600	395,000	389,000
Sweated pig	184 ^r	887	893	178	3,670	3,650
Total all classes	86,200 ^r	259,000	258,000	87,700	1,020,000	1,020,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2003^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	April				January-April ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,900 [†]	2,060	1,810	3,150	6,510	6,810
380 and variations	7,050 [†]	29,300	28,800	7,500	119,000	120,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,180 [†]	3,940	4,050	2,080	16,100	16,100
No. 319 and variations	3,980 [†]	10,800	10,500	4,270	42,900	43,700
F-132 alloy and variations	1,590 [†]	2,100	2,210	1,480	7,710	8,210
Al-Zn alloys	72 [†]	60	89	42	329	321
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	673	673
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	764	764
Other ⁴	7,680 [†]	7,690	6,680	8,690	28,600	25,500
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,500	17,400	17,400	10,500	70,500	70,600
Total all alloys	36,000 [†]	73,700	72,000	37,800	293,000	293,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,880	XX	XX	23,100	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,220	XX	XX	13,300	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	639	XX	XX	2,720	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	64,000	XX	XX	254,000	XX

[†]Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous month(s).

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Argentina	8,040	20,300	76	211	100	297	8,210	20,900
Australia	36,900	45,200	--	57	--	9	36,900	45,200
Bahrain	--	2,930	733	4,670	--	--	733	7,600
Belgium	--	5	957	2,500	--	--	957	2,510
Brazil	10,900	26,100	2,460	4,900	--	200	13,300	31,200
Canada	164,000	451,000	40,000	114,000	23,100	66,000	227,000	631,000
France	122	251	504	1,570	82	248	708	2,070
Germany	13	288	6,140	16,000	12	480	6,160	16,800
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	592	--	592
Hungary	--	--	192	521	--	--	192	521
Italy	--	--	52	401	--	--	52	401
Japan	3	56	656	2,370	28	188	686	2,620
Korea, Republic of	1	1	427	1,230	--	--	429	1,230
Mexico	453	1,300	1,200	3,590	4,760	17,200	6,410	22,000
Netherlands	9	119	330	911	97	203	436	1,230
Norway	10	25	--	15	--	--	10	41
Russia	90,400	194,000	4,040	11,400	959	2,270	95,400	208,000
South Africa	1,200	2,440	3,060	7,910	--	--	4,270	10,300
Spain	17	47	4	40	21	21	42	108
Sweden	--	--	265	793	54	151	319	945
Switzerland	--	2,090	390	1,120	--	--	390	3,210
United Arab Emirates	4,190	12,100	--	2	88	510	4,270	12,600
United Kingdom	538	1,240	102	246	297	613	936	2,100
Venezuela	32,600	47,100	1,500	5,230	778	1,220	34,900	53,600
Other	1,530	5,040	7,770	24,500	3,380	10,000	12,700	39,600
Total	350,000	811,000	70,900	205,000	33,700	100,000	455,000	1,120,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March	March	January-March
Australia	19	41	59	305	--	126	79	472
Belgium	74	221	308	977	--	--	381	1,200
Brazil	41	42	1,800	4,370	--	--	1,840	4,410
Canada	8,880	29,200	44,800	133,000	16,200	43,500	69,900	206,000
China	13	73	2,440	6,550	17,100	48,600	19,600	55,200
Czech Republic	--	--	1	156	--	--	1	156
Dominican Republic	3	22	21	452	--	--	24	474
France	1	1	371	1,050	3	3	374	1,050
Germany	32	101	536	1,170	(2)	60	568	1,340
Hong Kong	10	59	175	524	690	2,850	875	3,430
India	(2)	2	13	48	130	699	144	749
Israel	--	1	183	688	(2)	3	183	692
Italy	--	1	105	499	2	2	107	502
Japan	298	691	443	1,540	2,350	7,680	3,100	9,910
Korea, Republic of	8	66	1,630	3,730	3,970	10,500	5,610	14,300
Malaysia	(2)	56	53	147	7	7	60	210
Mexico	4,920	12,600	8,410	24,300	4,150	14,500	17,500	51,400
Netherlands	38	73	62	174	--	46	100	293
Russia	--	--	3	3	--	--	3	3
Saudi Arabia	--	--	1,690	4,650	--	--	1,690	4,650
Singapore	18	29	64	329	--	--	83	358
Spain	7	20	212	283	--	--	219	304
Sweden	--	--	54	120	--	--	54	120
Taiwan	38	67	392	1,210	2,880	7,060	3,310	8,330
Thailand	13	13	781	2,190	76	764	870	2,960
United Kingdom	28	97	850	2,770	32	232	910	3,090
Venezuela	--	--	291	299	16	16	306	315
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Other	49	101	1,350	4,110	481	1,060	1,880	5,270
Total	14,500	43,600	67,100	195,000	48,100	138,000	130,000	377,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.